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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

August 9, 2006

Mr. Robroy R. Fawcett
1576 Katella Way
Escondido, CA 92027-3638

Dear Mr. Fawcett:

Thank you for your letter regarding illegal immigration. As the debate on how to address this growing problem continues, no one can deny the need to increase border security and reject any amnesty proposal such as the one proposed by the United States Senate.

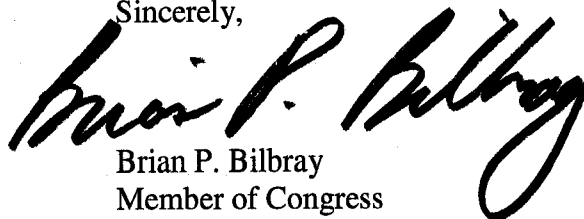
A recent report released by the House Judiciary Committee entitled "Immigration Law Sanctions and Enforcement in Selected Foreign Countries" stated that strong enforcement of immigration laws and tough sanctions can effectively reduce illegal immigration. House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), authored H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, which would implement measures needed to secure our borders, combat smuggling operations, and end the "catch and release" practice currently employed by the Department of Homeland Security.

The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 4437 and the Senate has passed their own bill, S. 2611, but a Conference Committee has not yet been appointed. Unfortunately, the Senate legislation rewards illegal immigrants with amnesty. Putting more than 12 million illegal immigrants on a path to citizenship is not the answer.

Attached is an opinion editorial that appeared in the San Diego Union-Tribune earlier this month that outlines the need to support legislation aimed at cracking down on employers who hire illegal immigrants. There is a delicate balance between being a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. Only by strengthening border security, enforcing immigration laws and holding employers accountable, can we begin to stem the tide of those illegally crossing the border.

Thank you for your interest in the illegal immigration issue.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

Enclosure

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

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Eliminating immigration incentives

By Brian Bilbray
July 21, 2006

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives have passed two very different plans to address illegal immigration. Congress has spent a tremendous amount of time and energy trying to find a common ground that could result in a compromise bill supported by both the House and Senate. Such a resolution is becoming more and more unlikely as House Republicans are holding the line against amnesty.

Instead of spending time trying to broker a compromise between the House and Senate, we should instead focus on a viable alternative that will have an immediate impact on illegal immigration. By passing HR 98, the Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act, Congress can put into place the policies needed to eliminate the financial incentive for illegal immigration by stopping illegal employers from hiring illegal immigrants.

Authored by Congressman David Dreier, R-San Dimas, and Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, former Border Patrol agent and member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Silvestre Reyes, HR 98 seeks to end the insane practice of rewarding illegal immigrants with jobs. The bill would provide employers with the tools they need to enforce the law by creating a tamper-proof Social Security card that every new worker would need to gain employment.

Before we address the 12 million illegal immigrants who are now living in our country, we must concentrate on eliminating the reasons why they are coming here in the first place. We must match our tough talk on illegal immigration with action. That begins with eliminating the incentive for illegal immigration by holding employers who hire illegal aliens accountable.

Employment enforcement measures will not be enough if amnesty provisions, such as the one introduced by Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., are signed into law. Border resources are already stretched too thin as illegal immigrants are consistently caught and released on a daily basis. Just imagine the influx of illegal immigration we can expect if amnesty provisions are adopted. The effect such a policy would have on our public safety community would be significant.

Consider that on a typical day, the men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection process more than 1 million passengers and pedestrians and nearly 70,000 truck, rail and sea containers. They seize more than 5,000 pounds of narcotics and intercept 206 fraudulent documents. They safeguard more than 100,000 miles of border and shoreline, and manage 317 ports of entry with only 11,300 Border Patrol agents.